

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00946 250059Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
-----250103 035097 /73

P 250051Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2573
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
INFO/ZEN ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 00946

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON - PRESS ROUNDUP

REF: OTTAWA 650

1. AS VISIT DREW TO A CLOSE, PRESS FOCUSSED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY TRUDEAU AT WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE, AND PARTICULARLY ON PARTI QUEBECOIS REACTIONS TO IT. TRUDEAU GIVEN STANDING OVATION ON HIS ARRIVAL IN HOUSE OF COMMONS, BUT OTHERWISE DIRECT PRESS COVERAGE IS WINDING DOWN.
2. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON FEBRUARY 24 HEADLINED ACROSS FRONT PAGE: "REMARK IN WASHINGTON CALLED 'RAVING' - PM DESPERATE, LEVESQUE SAYS." ARTICLE REPORTED STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY THE COMMENTS MADE BY QUEBEC PREMIER LEVESQUE, WHO FOCUSSED ON TRUDEAU PHRASE THAT SEPARATION WOULD BE A "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY". APPARENTLY, LEVESQUE THOUGHT TRUDEAU WAS "RAVING" WHEN HE SAID THAT. OTTAWA CITIZEN ALSO HEADLINED "LEVESQUE SLAMS REMARKS BY PM ON QUEBEC BREAK".
3. PRESS HAS PICKED UP TWO THEMES: 1L THAT TRUDEAU IN HIS SPEECH SPOKE OF "ACCOMMODATIONS AND REVISIONS" WHICH WOULD

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00946 250059Z

HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN CANADA, BUT THAT IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HE SEEMED TO INDICATE ALL THE ACCOMMODATIONS AND REVISIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE CANADIAN PEOPLE, AND NOT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS PROGRAM OF BILINGUALISM, AND 2) THAT LEVESQUE DID MENTION HIS WILLINGNESS, EVEN WHILE INSISTING THAT INDEPENDENCE IS HIS ONLY GOAL, TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

4. EDITORIAL WRITERS COMMENTED SOMEWHAT SIMILARLY. CHARLES LYNCH (SOUTHAM NEWS SYNDICATED COLUMNIST) CONCLUDED THAT TRUDEAU "SEEMED TO BE TELLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ONE THING, AND THE CANADIAN PEOPLE ANOTHER." TO AMERICANS HE WAS SAYING A BREAK UP OF CANADA WAS NOT POSSIBLE, TO CANADIANS HE WAS SAYING THAT IT WAS. GEOFFREY STEVENS OF THE GLOBE AND MAIL, HOWEVER, FOCUSSED ON THE MORAL TONE OF US FOREIGN POLICY, AND WONDERED IF CLOSER RELATIONS WITH CANADA WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE WATCHED VERY CLOSELY BY CANADIANS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO "STAND UP" TO THE US ON OCCASION ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST. INTERESTINGLY, SEVERAL PAPERS RAN VERBATIM REPRINTS OF RESTON NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON TRUDEAU AND CANADIAN SEPARATISM. DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA00946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770065-0018
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977029/aaaaahos.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0c8108ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA 650
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3449213
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON - PRESS ROUNDUP
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE)
To: STATE MONTREAL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c8108ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009